AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating diabetes which comprises administering to a mammalian species in need of treatment a therapeutically effective amount of an aP2 inhibitor, wherein the aP2 inhibitor includes **(a)** an oxazole or analogous ring selected from the group consisting of a substituted benzoyl or biphenyl-2-oxazole-alkanoic acid derivative, an oxazole derivative, a 2-thio-4,5-diphenyloxazole S-derivative, a phenyl-heterocyclic oxazole derivative, a diaryloxazole derivative, a 4,5-diphenyloxazole derivative, an oxazole carboxylic acid derivative, a phenyloxazolyloxazole derivative, or a 2-(4,5-diaryl)-2-oxazolyl substituted phenoxyalkanoic acid derivative; **and (b) a hydrogen bond donor or acceptor group and (c) an additional substituent which binds within and/or interacts with a discrete pocket within the aP2 protein defined by the amino acid residues designated Phe l6, Tyr l9, Met 20, Val 23, Val 25, Ala 33, Phe 57, Thr 74, Ala 75, Asp 76, Arg 78 in human aP2 (SEQ ID NO: 1)** .

2. (Original) The method as defined in Claim l wherein the aP2 inhibitor binds to the aP2 protein and inhibits its function and/or its ability to bind free fatty acids.

3-4. (Previously Cancelled)

5. Cancel.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim **[5] 1** wherein said **additional** substituent in said aP2 inhibitor is hydrophobic in nature.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim **[5] 1** in which the through space distance from the hydrogen bond donor/acceptor group and the additional substituent group in said aP2 inhibitor is within the distance of about 7 to about l5 Angstroms.

8. (Original) The method as defined in Claim l wherein Type II diabetes is treated.

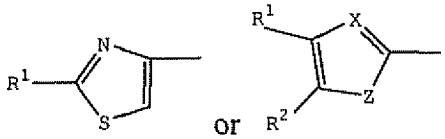
9. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 1 wherein the aP2 inhibitor is employed in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or a prodrug ester thereof.

10. - 13 (Previously Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method for treating diabetes which comprises administering to a mammalian species in need of treatment a therapeutically effective amount of an aP2 inhibitor, wherein the aP2 inhibitor is **selected from the group consisting of:**

(I) a substituted benzoylbenzene or biphenyl alkanoic acid derivative having the structure **of Formula** I : $A(CH_2)_nO$-B

wherein A is a group having the formula



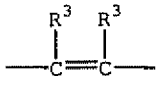
wherein

X is -N-; Z is -S- , or –O- ;

R^1 is hydrogen, lower alkyl or phenyl;

R^2 is hydrogen or lower alkyl; or

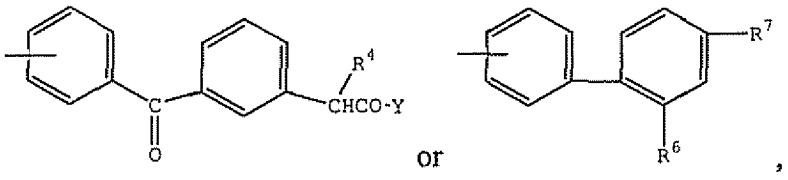
R^1 and R^2 taken together form a benzene ring **[, with the proviso that when X is -N-, Z is other than**



] ;

n is 1-2;

B is



,

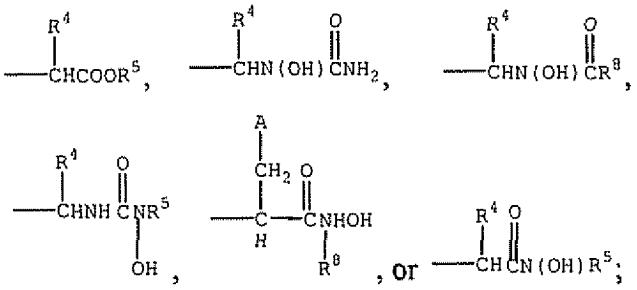
wherein

Y *is* OR^5 *or* $N(OH)R^8$;

R^4 and R^5 are each, independently, hydrogen or lower alkyl;

R^6 *is hydrogen, halo or nitro;*

R^7 is

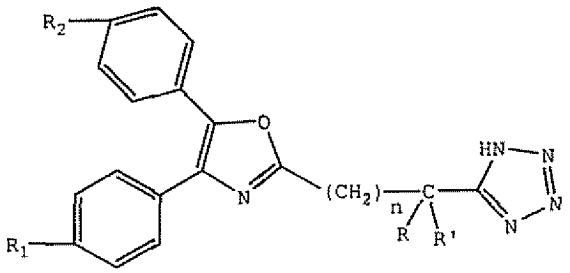


R^8 is lower alkyl;

[m is 0-3; or a] and

pharmacologically acceptable salts thereof;

(II) oxazole derivatives which have the structure **of Formula** II **:**



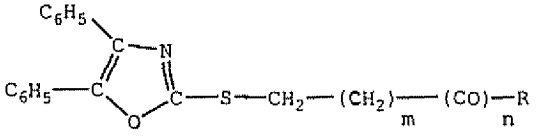
in which **[;]**

R and R' are identical or different and represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl radical containing l or 2 carbon atoms,

R_1 and R_2 are identical or different and represent hydrogen or halogen atoms or alkyloxy radicals in which the alkyl portion contains l to 4 carbon atoms in a straight or branched chain, and

n equals 3 to 6**[, as well to their salts] and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;**

(III) 2-thiol-4,5-diphenyloxazole S-derivatives which have the structure **of Formula** III **:**

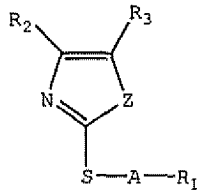


wherein m is 0, l or 2, n is l and

R represents hydroxy, alkoxy or amino, and

pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts thereof;

(IV) azole derivatives of the structure **of Formula** IV **:**



wherein

R_1 is carboxyl, esterified carboxyl or other functionally modified carboxyl group;

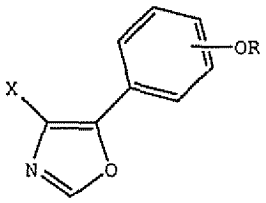
R_2 and R_3 each are aryl of up to 10 carbon atoms;

A is C_nH_{2n} in which n is an integer from 1 to 10, inclusive; **[and]**

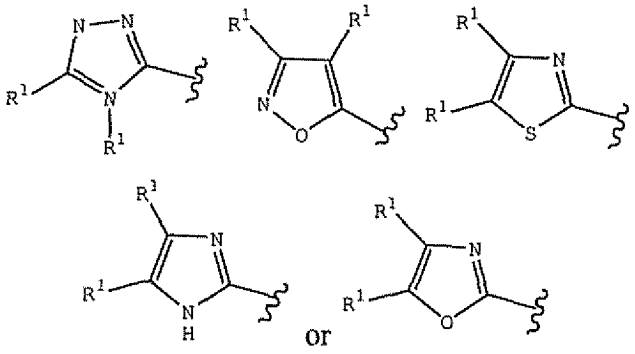
Z is O or S, and

physiologically acceptable salts thereof;

(V) phenyl-heterocyclic oxazole derivatives which have the structure **of Formula** V **:**



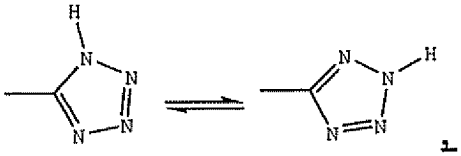
wherein X is



R is CH_2R^2;

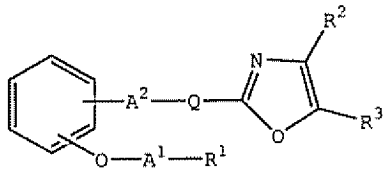
R^1 is Ph or Th;

R^2 is



, CO_2R^3 **[; and] where** R^3 is H, or C_1-C_4 lower alkyl; **[or] and** pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

(VI) diaryloxazole derivatives having the structure **of Formula** VI **:**



wherein R^1 is carboxy or protected carboxy,

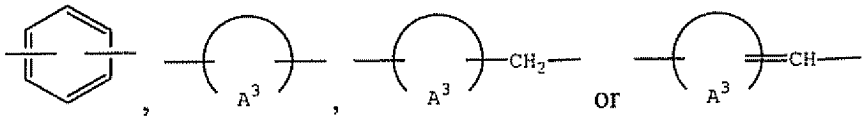
R^2 is aryl,

R^3 is aryl,

A^1 is lower alkylene,

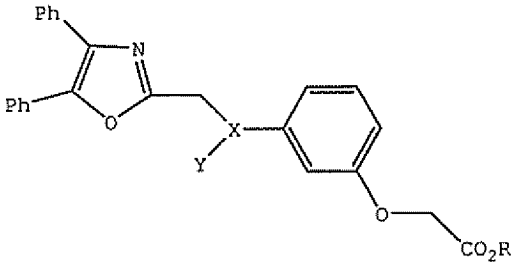
A^2 is bond or lower alkylene and

-Q- is



[(] in which  is cyclo (lower)alkane or cycle(lower)alkene, each of which may have **[suitable]** substituent(s) **[)]**;

(VII) 4,5-diphenyloxazole derivatives having the structure **of Formula** VIIA**:**



wherein

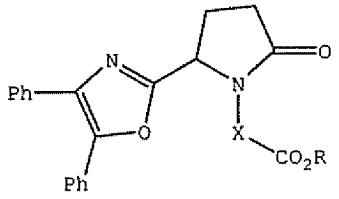
R is H or C_1-C_5 lower alkyl,

X is N or CH,

Y is H or CO_2R^1, or COR^2, provided that when X is CH, Y is not H,

R^1 is C_1-C_5 lower alkyl, or phenylmethyl, and

R^2 is C_1-C_5 alkyl; or **of Formula** VIIB:



wherein

R is H or C_1-C_5 lower alkyl,

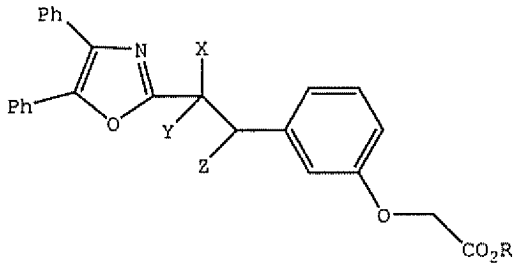
X is $(CH_2)_n$ or para or meta substituted phenyl wherein the substituent is OR^2,

R^2 is C_1-C_5 alkyl, and

n is an integer of 4 to 8, and

pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

(VIII) oxazole carboxylic acid derivatives having the structure **of Formula** VIII:



wherein

Y and Z are independently hydrogen or together form a bond;

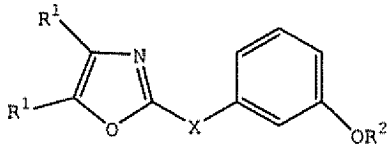
X is CN, CO_2R^1 or $CONR^2R^3$;

R and R^1 are independently or together H, Na, or C_1-C_5 lower alkyl;

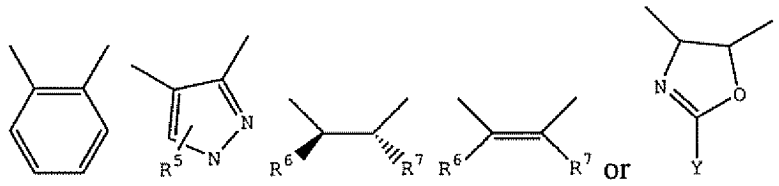
R^2 and R^3 are independently or together H, or C_1-C_5 lower alkyl; **[or] and**

alkali metal salts thereof;

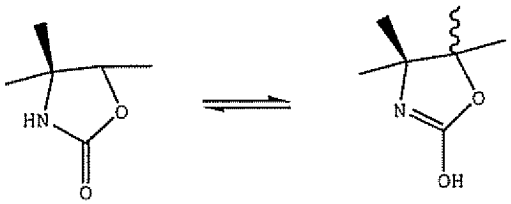
(IX) phenyloxazolyloxazole derivatives having the structure **of Formula** IX:



wherein X is



Y is CH_3, Ph, or OH, provided that when Y is OH, the compound exists in the keto-enol tautaumerism form



R^1 is Ph or Th;

R^2 is CH_2R^3;

R^3 is CO_2R^4;

R^4 is H or C_1-C_5 lower alkyl;

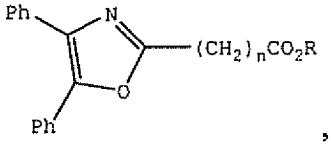
R^5 is H or CH_3;

R^6 is OHCHN or H_2N; and

R^7 is H or OH; **[or] and**

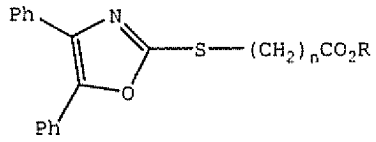
pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

(X) 2-(4,5-diaryl)-2-oxazolyl substituted phenoxyalkanoic acids and esters having the structure **of Formula** XA**:**



,

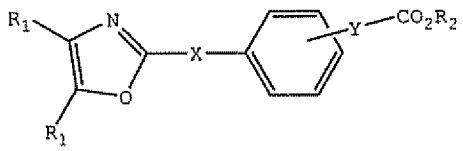
of Formula XB**:**



[(] wherein n is 7-9 and R is hydrogen or lower alkyl; or

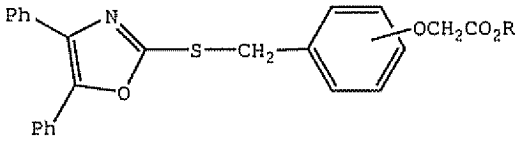
[when] **wherein** R is hydrogen, **or** the alkali metal salt thereof),

of Formula XC**:**



or

of Formula XD**:**



wherein

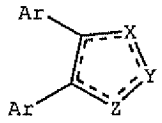
R_1 is phenyl or thienyl;

R_2 is hydrogen, lower alkyl or together with CO_2 is tetrazol-l-yl;

X is a divalent connecting group selected from the group consisting of CH_2CH_2, CH=CH, and CH_2O;

Y is a divalent connecting group attached to the 3- or 4-phenyl position selected from the group consisting of OCH_2, CH_2CH_2 and CH=CH, or when R_2 is hydrogen, an alkali metal salt thereof;

(XI) substituted 4,5-diaryl heterocycles having the **structure** of **[f]**Formula XI**:**



[in which] **wherein**

each group Ar is the same or different and is optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl;

X is nitrogen;

Y is $C(CH_2)_nA$;

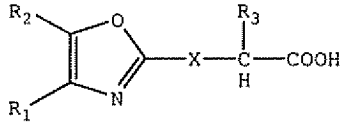
Z is oxygen, and the dotted line indicates the optional presence of a double bond so as to form a fully unsaturated heterocyclic ring;

n is 4 to l2; and

A is CO_2H or a group hydrolysable to CO_2H, 5-tetrazolyl, SO_3H, $P(O)(OR)_2$, $P(O)(OH)_2$, or $P(O)(R)(OR)$ in which R is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl**; [, or a] and**

pharmaceutically acceptable salt**s** thereof;

(XII) compounds which have the structure **of Formula** XII**:**



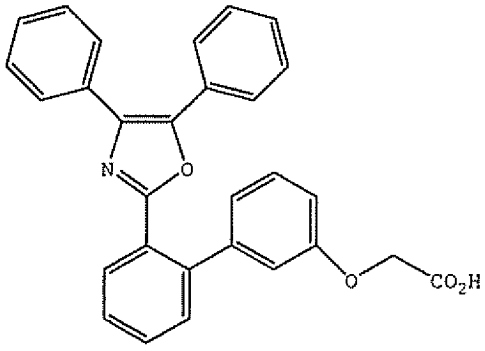
[Where] wherein X is O or S;

R_1 is H, phenyl or phenyl substituted with F, Cl or Br or alkoxy,

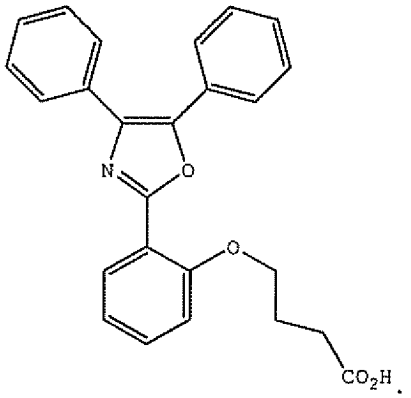
R_2 is H, alkyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted with F, Cl or Br or alkoxy, and

R_3 is H or alkyl.

l5. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in Claim l wherein the aP2 inhibitor has the structure



[and] or



16-20. (Previously Cancelled)